

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 NEA-06

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S/S/S - MR.LUERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 237811

TOSEC 314

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, GR

SUBJECT: BIO DATA (BITSIOS, DIMITRIOS)

LONDON FOR ASST SEC HARTMAN AT OPENING OF BUSINESS OCT 30

1. DIMITRIOS BITSIOS, 58, RESIGNED FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN OCTOBER 1972. ONLY 3 MONTHS EARLIER HE HAD LEFT HIS POSITION AS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS FOR AN ASSIGNMENT IN THE MINISTRY'S CENTRAL SERVICE. BITSIOS HAS HAD TWO TOURS AS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE (1961-65 AND 1967-72). BETWEEN THOSE ASSIGNMENTS HE WAS HEAD OF KING CONSTANTINE'S POLITICAL OFFICE AND ONE OF HIS CLOSEST ADVISERS.

2. IN JANUARY 1967 BITSIOS, AN AMBITIOUS MAN, WAS INVOLVED IN EFFORTS TO TOPPLE THE STEPHAN STEPHANOPOULOS GOVERNMENT. HE WAS SEVERELY CRITICIZED FOR HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE GOVERNMENT'S FALL BUT RETAINED THE KING'S TRUST. BITSIOS WAS NOT ARRESTED DURING THE APRIL 1967 COUP, ALTHOUGH HE  
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WAS APPARENTLY HELD FOR QUESTIONING.

3.BITSIOS WAS BORN IN EGYPT.HE EARNED BOTH LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE DEGREES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS.IN 1939 HE ENTERED THE FOREIGN SERVICE.IN 1964 HE WAS UNDER FIRE FOR HIS CONDUCT AT THE UNITED NATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CYPRUS ISSUE.HE WAS ACCUSED OF WORKING TOO

CLOSELY WITH THE U.S. DELEGATION AND IGNORING INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS GOVERNMENT.

4.BITSIOS BECAME UNDERSECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON AUG 3, 1974.WHEN FORMIN MAVROS RESIGNED IN OCT. TO DEVOTE HIS FULL ATTENTION TO CAMPAIGNING FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER BITSIOS WAS ELEVATED TO FORMIN IN THE CARETAKER GOVERNMENT.

5.BITSIOS IS HANDSOME AND WELL DRESSED.HE IS SOMETIMES DIFFICULT TO WORK WITH, BUT HE IS FRIENDLY IN SOCIAL SITUATIONS.HE IS MARRIED AND HAS A SON AND A DAUGHTER. BITSIOS IS THE AUTHOR OF SEVERAL BOOKS.HE SPEAKS FLUENT ENGLISH AND FRENCH. INGERSOLL

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